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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/720,791	12/29/2000	Masafumi Yamanoue	0033-0682P	5008
2292	7590	12/19/2003	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			WORLOH, JALATEE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	

DATE MAILED: 12/19/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/720,791	YAMANOU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jalatee Worjoh	3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 11-27 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 11-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 and 6.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 11-27 have been examined.

Election/Restrictions

2. Claim 1-10 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in Paper No. 8.

3. Applicant's election with traverse of Group II (claims 11-27) in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that "there is no serious burden on the Examiner in examining all of claims 1-27 together". This is not found persuasive because the examiner believes that the restriction is proper since the species are patentably distinct. Group II (claims 11-27) is an electronic copyrighted work sales apparatus comprising separate utility such as extracting from said storage unit a contents identifier corresponding to the contents selected by said user interface; whereas, Group I (claims 1-10) does not comprise this feature. Thus, the examiner notes that it would be a serious burden to search both species given their separate status as noted above.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Applicant has provisionally elected Group II (claims 11-27); consequently, an examination of the merits of these claims is included below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 11, 12, and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pub. No. 2002/0196364 to Hendricks in view of US Pub. No. 2002/0002466 to Kambayashi et al.

Hendricks discloses a communication unit carrying out data communication with an external source, a user interface for a user to select desire contents identifier in correspondence, a communication port to which a user identifier is input, processing unit causing said communication unit to transmit said communication port to said external source and providing in a pair auxiliary information to display contents received by said communication unit and the content of an electronic book selected by said user interface (see paragraphs [0085]-[0088], [0069] and [0056]). Hendricks does not expressly disclose a processing unit extracting from said storage unit a contents identifier corresponding to the contents selected by said user interface. Kambayashi et al. disclose a processing unit extracting from said storage unit a contents identifier corresponding to the contents selected by said user interface (see paragraph [0413]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclose by Hendricks to include a processing unit extracting from said storage unit a contents identifier corresponding to the contents selected by said user interface. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it allows

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quick and easy distribution of digitized works and provides a digital information usage environment assuming protection by copyright (see Kambayashi et al. paragraph [0005])

Referring to claim 12, Hendricks discloses a charge account processing unit carrying out charge accounting from a user (see paragraph [0113]). Hendricks does not expressly disclose said processing unit alters the contents identifier transmitted by said communication unit according to charge account status by said charge account processing unit. Kambayashi et al. disclose said processing unit alters the contents identifier transmitted by said communication unit according to charge account status by said charge account processing unit (see paragraph [0634]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Hendricks to include said processing unit altering the contents identifier transmitted by said communication unit according to charge account status by said charge account processing unit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provides an apparatus for charging for use of contents information recorded on a recording medium while allowing quick and easy distribution of copyright digital information (see Kambayashi et al. paragraph [0010]). Also, it provides an update apparatus that updates license information on the basis of a request for updating the license information upon receiving at least a newly designated license condition and second key generation information; thus, allowing easy modification of license information including contents identifier (see Kambayashi et al. paragraph [0014]).

Referring to claim 14, Hendricks discloses an input unit to enter auxiliary information to display contents and encoded contents of an electronic book (see paragraph [0085]) and a display unit displaying the contents reproduced by said processing unit (see [0097]). Hendricks does not

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expressly disclose a processing unit generating a contents key from the auxiliary information input by said input unit and a prestored user key and reproducing encoded contents input by said input unit using said contents key. Kambayashi et al. disclose a processing unit generating a contents key from the auxiliary information input by said input unit and a prestored user key (see paragraph [0366]) and reproducing encoded contents input by said input unit using said contents key (see paragraph [0020]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Hendricks to include a processing unit generating a contents key from the auxiliary information input by said input unit and a prestored user key and reproducing encoded contents input by said input unit using said contents key. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it provides data security and prevents unauthorized users from accessing the content.

Referring to claim 15, Hendricks discloses a display apparatus (see claim 14 above). Hendricks does not expressly disclose said encoded contents include a plurality of modules including at least one of data and a processing program, wherein said processing unit executes said plurality of modules and reproduces said electronic book contents Kambayashi et al. disclose said encoded contents include a plurality of modules including at least one of data and a processing program, wherein said processing unit executes said plurality of modules and reproduces said electronic book contents (see paragraphs [0020] and [0647]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Hendricks to include said encoded contents include a plurality of modules including at least one of data and a processing program, wherein said processing unit executes said plurality of modules and reproduces said electronic book contents. One of

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ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because executes routines that allows quick and easy distribution of digitized works and provides a digital information usage environment assuming protection by copyright (see Kambayashi et al. paragraph [0005]).

Referring to claim 16, Hendricks discloses said plurality of modules includes a module (i.e. “a video graphic controller”) with a description of display attribute information, wherein said processing unit extracts a display attribute from said module with description of a display attribute and selectively executes said plurality of modules according to said display attribute (see paragraphs [0085], [0086], and [0097]).

Referring to claim 17, Hendricks discloses a display apparatus (see claim 14 above). Hendricks does not expressly disclose said plurality of modules include a module with a description of information indicating the type of contents key, wherein said processing unit extracts information indicating the type of contents key from said module with a description of information indicating the type of contents key, and determines whether to execute or not said module according to said information. Kambayashi et al. disclose said plurality of modules include a module with a description of information indicating the type of contents key, wherein said processing unit extracts information indicating the type of contents key from said module with a description of information indicating the type of contents key, and determines whether to execute or not said module according to said information (see paragraph [0020]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Hendricks to include said plurality of modules include a module with a description of information indicating the type of contents key, wherein said processing unit extracts information indicating the type of contents key from said module with a description of

information indicating the type of contents key, and determines whether to execute or not said module according to said information. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because this because executes routines that allows quick and easy distribution of digitized works and provides a digital information usage environment assuming protection by copyright (see Kambayashi et al. paragraph [0005]).

Referring to claims 18 and 19, Hendricks discloses a recording medium in which auxiliary information to display contents and encoded contents of an electronic book are recorded, wherein said input unit reads out the auxiliary information and the encoded contents of an electronic book recorded in said recording medium, wherein said recording medium has said auxiliary information recorded in a nonreadable region (see [0085]-[0088]).

6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks in view of US Pub. No. 2003/0191719 to Ginter et al.

Hendricks discloses a first storage unit storing in correspondence a contents identifier corresponding to contents of an electronic book and a contents key (see paragraph [0069]), a second storage unit storing in correspondence a user identifier and a user key (see paragraphs [0083], [0085] and [0094]), and generating auxiliary information to display contents from contents key and user key (see paragraph [0086]). Hendricks does not expressly disclose a processing unit referring to said first storage unit and said second storage unit to extract a contents key and user key according to a specified contents identifier and user identifier. Ginter et al. disclose a processing unit referring to said first storage unit and said second storage unit to extract a contents key and user key according to a specified contents identifier and user identifier

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(see paragraphs [2466] and [2550]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Hendricks to include a processing unit referring to said first storage unit and said second storage unit to extract a contents key and user key according to a specified contents identifier and user identifier. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it secures the content by ensuring that the appropriate user views the content.

7. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks and Kambayashi et al. in view of Ginter et al.

Hendricks discloses an electronic book display apparatus reproducing and displaying an electronic book sold by said electronic copyrighted work sales apparatus, a user interface for a user to select desired, a first storage unit storing in correspondence contents of an electronic book and a contents identifier, a communication port to which a user identifier is input, and a first processing unit extracting from said first storage unit a contents identifier corresponding to the contents selected by said user interface, and providing auxiliary information to display contents and contents of an electronic book selected by said user interface in a pair, wherein said key information management apparatus includes a second storage unit storing in correspondence a content identifier and a contents key corresponding to contents of an electronic book, a third storage unit storing in correspondence a user identifier and a user key and generating auxiliary information to display said contents forms aid extracted contents key and user key; wherein said electronic book display apparatus includes an unit to input auxiliary information to display said contents and contents of an electronic book and a display unit displaying the contents reproduced

by said third processing unit (see paragraphs [0069], [0083] -[0088], [0094],[0097]). Hendricks does not expressly disclose an electronic copyrighted work sales apparatus selling an electronic book, a key information management apparatus administering key information of an electronic book that is to be sold by said electronic copyrighted work sales apparatus, a second processing unit referring to said second storage unit and said third storage unit to extract a contents key and user key according to the contents identifier extracted by said first processing unit and a user identifier and a third processing unit generating a contents key form auxiliary information input by said input unit and a prestored user key, and reproducing contents input through said input unit using said contents key. Kambayashi et al. disclose an electronic copyrighted work sales apparatus selling an electronic book (see paragraph [0311]), a key information management apparatus administering key information of an electronic book that is to be sold by said electronic copyrighted work sales apparatus (see paragraph [0189]), and a third processing unit generating a contents key form auxiliary information input by said input unit and a prestored user key, and reproducing contents input through said input unit using said contents key (see paragraph [0366]). Ginter et al. disclose a second processing unit referring to said second storage unit and said third storage unit to extract a contents key and user key according to the contents identifier extracted by said first processing unit and a user identifier (see paragraphs [2466], [2550]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the system disclose by Hendricks to include an electronic copyrighted work sales apparatus selling an electronic book, a key information management apparatus administering key information of an electronic book that is to be sold by said electronic copyrighted work sales apparatus, a second processing unit referring to said second

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storage unit and said third storage unit to extract a contents key and user key according to the contents identifier extracted by said first processing unit and a user identifier and a third processing unit generating a contents key from auxiliary information input by said input unit and a prestored user key, and reproducing contents input through said input unit using said contents key. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because that allows quick and easy distribution of digitized works and provides a digital information usage environment assuming protection by copyright (see Kambayashi et al. paragraph [0005]).

8. Claims 21, 23 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks.

Hendricks discloses a processing unit generating and adding to electronic book data auxiliary information according to the electronic book data and an input user identifier (see [0085], [0086], [0097]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to develop a system that generates and adds to electronic book data auxiliary information according to the electronic book data and an input user identifier. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it eliminates the distribution of any physical object such as a paper book (see paragraph [0004]).

Referring to claim 23, Hendricks discloses a first processing unit generating auxiliary information according to electronic book data and user identifier, and comparing said generated auxiliary information and auxiliary information added to said electronic book data and a production processing unit determining a reproduction processing method of contents according to a comparison result by said first processing unit and reproducing the contents (see paragraphs [0085] and [0086]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person

of ordinary skill in the art to develop an apparatus that includes a first processing unit generating auxiliary information according to electronic book data and user identifier, and comparing said generated auxiliary information and auxiliary information added to said electronic book data and a production processing unit determining a reproduction processing method of contents according to a comparison result by said first processing unit and reproducing the contents. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it secures the content by ensuring that the proper content is reproduced.

Referring to claim 27, Hendricks discloses contents including a plurality of modules with at least one of data and processing program and a module with a description of display attribute information, a processing unit extracting a display attribute from said module with a description of a display attribute, and selectively executing said plurality of modules according to said display attribute to reproduce and contents and display unit displaying contents reproduced by said processing unit (see paragraphs [0085], [0086] and [0097]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to develop an apparatus comprising discloses contents including a plurality of modules with at least one of data and processing program and a module with a description of display attribute information, a processing unit extracting a display attribute from said module with a description of a display attribute, and selectively executing said plurality of modules according to said display attribute to reproduce and contents and display unit displaying contents reproduced by said processing unit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it ensures that the proper content is reproduced.

9. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of US Patent No. 6073122 to Wool.

Hendricks discloses a second processing unit encrypting a portion of input electronic book data, and adding the encrypted data to electronic book data to be output and a third processing unit receiving information including a user identifier, calculating auxiliary information and adding to electronic book data to be output (see paragraphs [0085] and [0056]). Hendricks does not expressly disclose a first processing unit carrying out a process according to information defined in a header of input electronic book data and applying the result to electronic book data to be output. Wool discloses a first processing unit carrying out a process according to information defined in a header of input electronic book data and applying the result to electronic book data to be output (see abstract). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Hendricks to include a first processing unit carrying out a process according to information defined in a header of input electronic book data and applying the result to electronic book data to be output. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it prevents unauthorized individuals from tampering with essential programming procedures.

10. Claims 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Ginter et al.

Hendricks discloses a display apparatus (see claim 23 above). Hendricks does not expressly disclose a second processing unit comparing usage time limit information defined in a header of said electronic book data with the current time to determine whether to display contents or not and outputting a designation to said reproduction processing unit. Ginter et al.

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disclose a second processing unit comparing usage time limit information defined in a header of said electronic book data with the current time to determine whether to display contents or not and outputting a designation to said reproduction processing unit (see paragraphs [1317], [1321] and [1701]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Hendricks to include a second processing unit comparing usage time limit information defined in a header of said electronic book data with the current time to determine whether to display contents or not and outputting a designation to said reproduction processing unit. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it secures the content by preventing unauthorized individuals from viewing the data.

Referring to claim 26, Hendricks discloses a display apparatus (see claim 23 above). Hendricks does not expressly disclose a user identifier registration unit registering a user identifier that is automatically generated or input by a user. Ginter et al. disclose a user identifier registration unit registering a user identifier that is automatically generated or input by a user (paragraph [1412]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Hendricks to include a user identifier registration unit registering a user identifier that is automatically generated or input by a user. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because it effectively monitors its users.

11. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendricks as applied to claim 23 above, and further in view of Kambayashi et al.

Hendricks discloses a display apparatus (see claim 23 above). Hendricks does not expressly disclose a third processing unit determining whether to decode or not an encrypted portion of said electronic book data according to a comparison result by said first processing unit and carrying out a process. Kambayashi et al. disclose a third processing unit determining whether to decode or not an encrypted portion of said electronic book data according to a comparison result by said first processing unit and carrying out a process (see paragraph [0020]). At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus disclosed by Hendricks to include a third processing unit determining whether to decode or not an encrypted portion of said electronic book data according to a comparison result by said first processing unit and carrying out a process. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this because that allows quick and easy distribution of digitized works and provides a digital information usage environment assuming protection by copyright (see Kambayashi et al. paragraph [0005]).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jalatee Worjloh whose telephone number is 703-305-0057. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays-Thursdays 8:30 - 7:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703-305-9768. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306, 703-746-9443 for Non-Official/Draft.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

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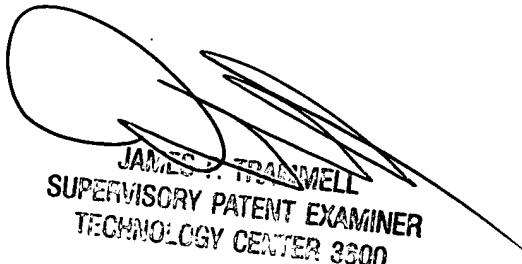
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